

very effectively just how much it would be an asset to employees, as well as employers, to have some certainty about their ability to communicate and work together in the workplace.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank my distinguished colleague.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. KASSEBAUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, July 8, 1996, the Federal debt stood at \$5,154,104,445,604.38.

On a per capita basis, every man, woman, and child in America owes \$19,430.90 as his or her share of that debt.

CABLE INDUSTRY OFFERS SCHOOLS FREE INTERNET ACCESS

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, today, I had the pleasure of participating in the launch of Cable's High-Speed Education Connection, the cable industry's latest contribution to the American educational system and America's children. At the heart of this initiative is a commitment by the cable industry to offer every elementary and secondary school in the country that is passed by cable, basic high-speed Internet access via cable modems—free of charge.

For years, the computer industry has offered greatly discounted pricing on hardware and software to schools, universities, teachers, and students. This same industry is arguably both the most successful and the least regulated in the United States.

As chairman of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, one of my primary goals in authoring the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was to apply this competitive formula to the telecommunications industry. I am convinced it is a formula for success. This formula creates a world in which different telecommunications companies can compete with each other in the delivery of new services to American consumers.

I was especially interested in breaking up the local exchange monopolies and encouraging new entrants to provide alternative telephone services and television programming. I congratulate the cable industry for rapidly taking the lead in demonstrating how this newly competitive environment accelerates the provision to students and teachers of access to the latest and best educational technologies.

What will be the result? Elementary and secondary schools will be wired for cable. They also will be equipped with

modems maximizing the delivery of high-speed digital services. These developments very positively impact the future of learning—including the development of distance learning—which particularly helps rural States like South Dakota. In fact, I understand that among the first cable markets targeted for these new services will be Rapid City, SD. These wired schools will expose young generations to some of the best of cable technology. They will create sophisticated users of the next generation of cable information services. They will help create masters of the information age.

So, what we witness here is not the result of Government's decision as to which technology should be mandated for low cost delivery to schools. We witness instead the initial stages of a competition for the loyalty and attention of future adult generations in their decisions about which services best accommodate their needs.

Mr. President, I am pleased that the cable industry is taking the initiative today to provide American schools—free of charge—with high-speed access to the Internet using cable modems. Cable's High-Speed Education Connection builds on the foundation established by Cable in the Classroom, an ongoing multimillion dollar educational project that provides more than 74,000 schools nationwide with free access to cable systems and more than 6,000 hours of commercial-free educational programming each year. The cable industry is to be commended for being a leader in providing educational benefits and network access to the communities it serves.

I encourage other companies and industries to follow the example the cable industry announced today and applaud what likely is only the first step by the cable industry to improve the quality and availability of education technology.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Thomas, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Armed Services.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

REPORT OF THE OFFICE OF OCEAN AND COASTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT, OCEAN SERVICE, NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION FOR FISCAL YEARS 1994 AND 1995—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 157

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message

from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to submit the Biennial Report of the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, National Ocean Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for fiscal years 1994 and 1995. This report is submitted as required by section 316 of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972, as amended, (16 U.S.C. 1451, et seq.).

The report discusses progress made at the national level in administering the Coastal Zone Management and Estuarine Research Reserve Programs during these years, and spotlights the accomplishments of NOAA's State coastal management and estuarine research reserve program partners under the CZMA.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, July 9, 1996.

REPORT OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR FISCAL YEAR 1995—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—PM 158

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

To the Congress of the United States:

In accordance with the Communications Act of 1934, as amended (47 U.S.C. 396(i)), I transmit herewith the Annual Report of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) for Fiscal Year 1995 and the Inventory of the Federal Funds Distributed to Public Telecommunications Entities by Federal Departments and Agencies: Fiscal Year 1995.

Since 1967, when the Congress created the Corporation, CPB has overseen the growth and development of quality services for millions of Americans.

This year's report highlights ways the Corporation has helped millions of American families and children gain new learning opportunities through technology. At a time when technology is advancing at a pace that is as daunting as it is exhilarating, it is crucial for all of us to work together to understand and take advantage of these changes.

By continuing to broadcast programs that explore the challenging issues of our time, by working with local communities and schools to introduce more and more children to computers and the Internet, in short, by honoring its commitment to enriching the American spirit, the Corporation is preparing all of us for the 21st century.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, July 9, 1996.